

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :  
Mats Dahlbäck et al. :  
Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned  
U.S. National Phase :  
of PCT/SE99/02300 :  
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned  
For: Zirconium Based Alloy and Component in a Nuclear Energy Plant

5/A  
CJ  
9/19/01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Clean copy of amended claims

3. A zirconium-based alloy according to claim 1, charaterised in that it comprises up to 0.2 percentage by weight Ni.

4. A zirconium-based alloy according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises up to 0.6 percentage by weight Cr.

5. A zirconium-based alloy according to claim 1, characterised in that the total content of Nb and Sn is larger than or equal to 1.5 percentage by weight.

6. A zirconium-based alloy according to claim 1, characterised in that the alloy constitutes at least a part of a component in a nuclear energy plant.